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EDITORIAL.

EDITORS, E. D. COPE AND J. S. KINGSLEY.

THE increase in the number of original investigators in science during the last few years in the United States, is a gratifying indication of intellectual progress. Progress in science and philosophy means increase in positive knowledge. This means light for the mind, as well as comfort and health for the body, both now and in time to come. To know whence we come and whither we tend, is to be prepared for the future as well as for the present. The age demands knowledge, and provision is being gradually made in this country for the producers of it. The time is not far distant, we suspect, when the confusion between the producers and the distributors of knowledge, which is so prevalent, will disappear. Millions are expended for the dissemination of knowledge through the medium of schools and libraries, while small sums only can be obtained for the production of new truth. The increase in the number of producers in science is educating the public mind, and one great need, that of institutions of original research, will be supplied. Professors in universities and colleges who are competent in this work can now only pursue it in leisure moments, and these are often few.

New institutions might be endowed with this object in view, since few of the old ones supply the organization necessary for the successful execution of such work. These might be appropriately associated with universities in the proper localities for purposes of mutual advantage. The increase in the original investigators holds forth a promise of the organization on a true basis of academies of science in our States. Those in existence having commenced by electing as members everybody who can pay the necessary fees, have mostly lost their scientific character, and have sunk into inaction. Little can be done with them, since those into whose hands they have fallen are generally unwilling to adopt the necessary changes. But the times will soon be auspicious for the organization of new bodies, whose membership will be an order of merit, and a recognition of work done.

—WITH this number of the *AMERICAN NATURALIST* we begin the publication of a serial catalogue of all current articles relating to the fauna of North America. Beginning with the year 1889, we intend as far as possible to place in classified order the titles of all articles which appear in American or European journals relating to the animals of North America and the West Indies. This list will be continued in succeeding numbers, taking up the different groups in ascending order, and then, when the series is complete, returning to the lowest forms again. For 1889 the list will be but little more than a bare catalogue, but beginning with 1890 each title will be followed by such hints at its contents as will make the bibliography more valuable to students.

—THE Marine Biological Laboratory has issued its annual report, in which it makes an exceedingly good showing. The laboratory was crowded last summer, and doubtless will be in the coming session. The trustees appeal for \$7,000, enumerating as their chief needs an addition to the building, an increase in the library, and a steam launch. It is to be hoped that the funds will be forthcoming, but it is hardly fair that Boston should furnish them all. Last year both Philadelphia and Chicago furnished more students than Boston. Any subscriptions will be thankfully received by the Secretary, Miss A. D. Philipps, 12 Marlboro street, Boston, Mass.

—THE House of Representatives has passed the bill appropriating about \$200,000 for a zoological garden and park within the limits of the City of Washington. The location on Rock Creek is a good one, and under the direction of Mr. W. T. Hornaday, it should be a success. Zoological gardens mean the preservation of such animals as will breed in them from extinction, as well as the instruction of the public. When a good price can be had for living wild animals, people living where they abound will have an interest in preserving them in a wild state. We understand that Professor Frank Baker will be prospector, and will have charge of the department of comparative anatomy in the United States National Museum.